

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 136

By Rogers

A RESOLUTION commending Taiwan for its relations with the United States.

WHEREAS, Taiwan and the United States are long-standing allies who deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, Taiwan held its fifth direct presidential election and again demonstrated the strength and vitality of its democratic system, paving the way for Taiwan as a beacon of democracy in Asia and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan serves the best interests of the Asia-Pacific region in the continuation of stability and growth. Taiwan and mainland China signed the Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) in 2010. U.S. businesses can collaborate with innovative Taiwanese companies in Taiwan's comprehensive protection of intellectual property rights, and then use Taiwan as a springboard for entering mainland China and other key Asian markets; and

WHEREAS, since 1980, the State of Tennessee and Taiwan have enjoyed long, cordial, and mutually beneficial sister-state relations, a friendship that continues to strengthen with each passing year; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' eleventh-largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's third-largest trading partner; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Taiwan in the United States' Visa Waiver Program is a significant step to draw travelers from Taiwan, choosing the United States as their destination for trade, investment, and sightseeing; and

WHEREAS, by working together with Taiwan, Tennessee welcomes all opportunities for an even closer economic partnership, such as the signing of a U.S.-Taiwan Bilateral Investment

Agreement and a Free Trade Agreement, and the inclusion of Taiwan in the Trans-Pacific Partnership in order to enhance the special sister-state bond between Tennessee and Taiwan and to encourage further cultural, educational, and business exchanges between the citizens of both nations; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is an active member in the international community, with a long history of commitment to international health and humanitarian aid, as well as environmental protection; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that the members of this legislative body commend and support the democratization efforts of Taiwan and the nation's meaningful participation in the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization, as well as other international organizations, and extend our most sincere best wishes for continued cooperation and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the clerk of the House of Representatives be directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Steven Huei-Yuan Tai, Director General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta, Georgia.